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RELEASE AFTERNOON PAPERS
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CATTLE FEEDING SITUATION - DECEMBER 1, 1931.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle inspected at livestock markets, into the eleven Corn Belt States in November are indicated as a little larger than in November 1930 but a little smaller than the November average of the preceding 5 years. This is in contrast to the decreases of 11 per cent in shipments in October and 17 per cent in September this year compared with the same months in 1930. Prices of such cattle made a considerable advance during November which is contrary to the usual trend of prices at that time of the year.

Total shipments for the 5 months July to November, inclusive, into the Corn Belt states were practically the same in 1931 as in 1930, but were below any other year since 1920 except 1927. This distribution of shipments this year was much different from that of last year with a material increase into the area east of the Mississippi River and a sharp decrease into the states west of the Missouri River. Shipments into the area east of the Mississippi were the largest in 5 years, while those into the states west of that river were the smallest in 12 years.

The states with the largest increases over last year were Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, while the states showing large decreases were Nebraska, Kansas and South Dakota, with Iowa little changed. The states with increased shipments are those which were most affected by the 1930 drought and the states with decreased shipments are those that suffered most from the 1931 drought.

Even more than during preceding months this year feeders' preference during November was shown for light weight steers and calves. Shipments of feeder calves from 4 leading markets in November this year were over 60 per cent larger than in November 1930 and of steers under 700 pounds were 25 per cent larger. Shipments of stocker and feeder cows and heifers, on the other hand, were nearly 50 per cent smaller than in November last year.

The movement of feeder cattle into the feeding areas of Colorado to December 1 this year was much smaller than to that date in 1930 and cattle feeding will be in smaller volume than last year. Some increase in cattle feeding over last year is reported in each of the Pacific Coast states, with small decreases in Nevada and Wyoming and considerable decreases in Utah and Idaho. A material increase in feeding of both cattle and calves is reported in Texas and the movement of feeder cattle into the Lancaster, Pennsylvania district to the end of November was 70 per cent larger than the very small shipments in 1930.

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